Recommendations of the Working Group on Trading Houses

1645. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group on Trading Houses has made certain recommendations?

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on the basis of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations made by the Working Group on Trading Houses included *inter-alia* introduction of a system consisting of three different categories of Export/ Trading firms graded in conical structure, change in eligibility criteria, compulsory exports of six products and to six countries, inclusion of invisible earnings in foreign exchange for calculating export turn-over flexibility in use of REP licences, removal of value ceiling for import of certain goods, easy access to imported inputs for exports, parity in use of MDA funds with Export Promotion Councils, permission to procure long term export promotional loans through M.D.A. or Exim Bank etc.

(c) The recommendations made by the Working Group were duly taken into account while formulating the new Import-Export Policy for 1988-91.

Office hours in Mobile Civil Emergency Force Office

1646. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office timings in all the subordinate offices of Central Government are from 0930 hrs. to 1800 hrs. in Delhi;

(b) if so whether the Mobile Civil Emergency Force, a subordinate office of the Ministry, adheres to the prescribed office timings; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Mobile Civil Emergency Force also observes the same timings. However, for some staff like havildars, constables who are required to perform line guard and other emergency duties, even on holidays, the duty period is from 0930 AM to 0430 PM.

Duty-free clearance of life saving equipments

1647. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all Custom Houses are permitting duty-free clearance of foley balloon catheters as life saving equipments under Customs Notification No. 208/81;

(b) if so, under which heading and serial number of the said Notification; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the current practice and how large quantity of such goods were released in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The admissibility of Custom duty exemption on Foley Balloon Catheters under Customs Noti-